

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Crucible Compaction Metals

Catalyst Connection

Crucible Compaction Metals Improves Productivity with Assistance from Catalyst Connection

Client Profile:

Crucible Compaction Metals is a producer and processor of powdered metals alloys for various industries including aerospace, power generation, plastic tooling and marine systems. The facility in Oakdale, Pennsylvania employs 63 people.

Situation:

A major customer from the aerospace industry had observed that Crucible did not have the level of housekeeping it once had. They asked Crucible to undertake a 5S improvement project to address this issue. The company contacted Catalyst Connection, a NIST MEP network affiliate, for assistance.

Solution:

Catalyst Connection proposed a plan to train company employees and facilitate the 5S process through a series of Kaizen events. The first step was to determine focus areas for improvement. Once the areas were selected, a Kaizen team was formed consisting of individuals who worked in the focus areas as well as individuals that did not. The 5S training was provided in the working environment. This enabled the instructor and participants to use the environment as a source of ideas and applications. Then, Catalyst facilitated the Kaizen event, taking the team through the sort, set in order, shine, and standardize steps of 5S. For the fifth step, Catalyst Connection scheduled an audit for six months after the event to ensure that the good habits employees learned were sustained. Crucible worked their way through a series of focus areas in the plant, initially with Catalyst guiding the efforts and then with Crucible conducting the 5S Kaizen events on their own. As a result of these efforts, Crucible earned the corporate Callahan Safety Award for having the lowest combination of workman's compensation claims, recordable accidents, days away from work due to injuries on the job, and completed safety audits.

Results:

- * Increased productivity by 70 percent.
- * Created 10 new jobs.
- * Awarded the Callahan Safety Award.

Testimonial:

"That group [maintenance department] proved to be the most adamant about embracing the concepts. They police their area and do audits as well or better than any other area in the plant. We got a really positive response that is quite genuine. People so underestimate the benefits of a clean and well-organized work space."

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Brian McTiernan, Vice President and General Manager